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Weekly Summary

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June 18, 1976

The WEEKLY SUMMARY, issued every Friday morning by the Office of Current Intelligence, reports and analyzes significant developments of the week through noon on Thursday. It frequently includes material coordinated with or prepared by the Office of Economic Research, the Office of Strategic Research, the Office of Geographic and Cartographic Research, and the Directorate of Science and Technology.

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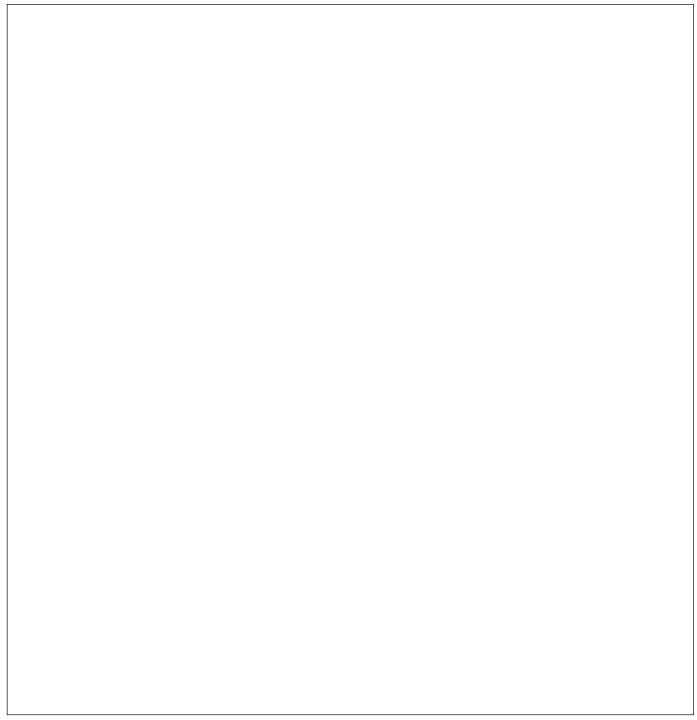

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18 Latin America: *International Terrorist Group*

Comments and queries on the contents of this publication are welcome. They may be directed to the editor of the Weekly Summary,

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There is growing evidence that a front organization that coordinates the activities of Latin American terrorist groups is developing at least some capability for carrying out incidents outside the hemisphere.

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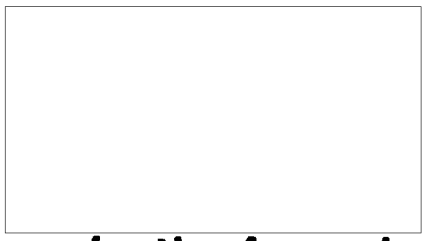

Latin America: International Terrorist Group

by Stephen Schwab

Recently captured documents support earlier speculation that Latin American terrorists are joining forces to engage in activities outside the hemisphere.

Shortly after the murder last month of the Bolivian ambassador to France, General Zenteno, leads developed by Paris police indicated that some form of international terrorism was at work.

Ballistics tests reportedly confirm that the gun used to kill Zenteno was the same weapon that wounded the Spanish military attache in Paris last fall. Moreover, the murder of Zenteno bears a marked similarity to the assassination of the Uruguayan military attache in Paris in December, 1974.

Speculation about the activities of a South American guerrilla organization known as the Revolutionary Coordinating Junta was also fueled by an advertisement it placed in the May 9 issue of *Le Monde* in Paris. Entitled "Latin America Fights in Argentina," the manifesto is the organization's first such open attack abroad.

It focuses attention on the repressive activities of the new Argentine government and calls for a world-wide mobilization to free Edgardo Enriquez, the founder of the Chilean Movement of the Revolutionary Left and a member of the Junta's secretariat, who was arrested by Argentine security forces on April 10.

This may be the beginning of an international propaganda effort to discredit the military government—at least it serves to arouse the sympathies of the French left on this issue.

Information on the Coordinating Junta is fragmentary. Some of it comes from sources of unknown reliability, and some from South American security services that may exaggerate the importance of available data for their own purposes. Nevertheless, documents captured in raids on guerrilla hideouts and arrests of extremists in Paraguay, Chile, Argentina, and Bolivia confirm that such an organization does exist.

The organization may have originated during informal contacts between various South American leftist movements as early as 1968. Its formal existence was declared in a joint communique in February 1974 when representatives of guerrilla groups in Bolivia, Uruguay, Chile, and Argentina announced that they were uniting under the leadership of Roberto Santucho, the head of the People's Revolutionary Army in Argentina.

In March 1975 a Paraguayan extremist organization reportedly joined the group, and later that month a meeting was held in Lisbon "to unify the Latin American revolutionary movements."

The Junta is now said to have representatives in several European countries, including Portugal, Sweden, and France, but available evidence indicates that its headquarters is still in Argentina and that most of its funds, and probably its members, come from the People's Revolutionary Army.

Until now the Junta has not taken responsibility for any terrorist operations, as has been the practice of individual guerrilla organizations in South America. This does not mean it has been inactive.

On the contrary, it would appear from captured documents that the organization takes its coordinating function seriously and exists for that purpose and to provide logistic support to its member groups. These functions were strongly emphasized in the documents captured by the Paraguayan government late last year, in those uncovered by Argentine security forces in a raid on one of Santucho's hideouts this spring, and in documents discovered in Bolivia in April.

Despite tha lack of hard data on assets or numbers involved, it would appear that the Junta has already achieved a status and operational capability that exceeds past efforts by Latin American revolutionaries to form an intra-hemisphere terrorist organization.

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